



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/3/2007
TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: Susanne Friedman, Project Planner
Kevin Stoops, Planning & Development Manager

SUBJECT: Citywide Skatepark Plan Decision Tree

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

The Board is scheduled to adopt the draft Citywide Skatepark Plan, including the proposed site locations, on January 11, 2007.

The Citywide Skatepark Plan outlines a hierarchy of skatepark facilities, criteria for their siting, and recommended locations for such. The plan also identifies priority actions for skatepark facility development. The identification of recommended parks by the Task Force is a siting recommendation only. Decisions on exact location within the recommended park, the exact size and shape, or the skill level of the facility would be developed during future site specific public planning processes.

RECAP OF PUBLIC HEARING

Testimony given at the public hearing was predominantly supportive of the plan and the planning process. Citizens emphasized the need for facilities and a desire to begin implementation as soon as possible. Neighborhood concerns were noted for Myrtle Reservoir and Genesee Playfield sites. There was a desire for filling in the gaps in the plan in the Downtown, Capitol Hill and the University District.

After a considerable amount of discussion, the Park Board made the following recommendations to the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, The Board discussed and voted first on Issues #2-5 below, and discussed and voted on Issue #1 last.

ISSUE #1 – APPROVE THE DRAFT PLAN

- The Citywide System – Typology
- The Site Criteria & Framework of Assumptions
- The Site Recommendations
- Prioritized Projects for Funding
- Additional Recommendations

Commissioner Ranade moved to adopt the Citywide Skatepark Plan, with the Board's recommendations and changes [as shown below in Issues #2-5.] Commissioner Holme seconded.

The vote was taken and was unanimous in approval. Motion carried.

ISSUE #2 – GIVEN THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY, PARKS SHOULD PROCEED TO ATTEMPT TO FILL IN GAPS IN THE DOWNTOWN CORE.

- In keeping with the North Downtown Park Plan, continue to pursue collaborative options with Seattle City Light substation for possible park and skatepark siting in South Lake Union or Denny Triangle Neighborhoods
- Consider options for skate facilities if the Aurora corridor becomes lidded
- Find a replacement site for SeaSkate somewhere in the Downtown core, such as Seattle Center.
- Continue to pursue other opportunities as may arise.

Commissioner Collins moved approval of Issue #2 and Commissioner Belbeck seconded. Commissioner Jackson made a friendly amendment to clarify bullet #3 to add Seattle Center, which was accepted by Commissioner Collins.

The vote was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

ISSUE #3 – GIVEN THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY, SHOULD PARKS EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS AND SIZES FOR A SKATE FACILITY AT GENESEE PARK?

Whereas, members of the Board were concerned about unanswered questions about siting a skatepark at Genesee Park and have the following questions: 1. Is the playfield preferable to the park for a skate facility? 2. How much green space would be lost? 3. How close will the skate facility be to neighbors? 4. Has there been sufficient input from the park's neighbors? 5. Is there an overall plan for Genesee Park? 6. Are there drainage problems that would be exacerbated by adding an impervious skate park surface? Given these concerns, the Board wants to leave the Plan with more flexibility about locating a district skate facility at Genesee Park than it appears to now have,

Commissioner Ranade moved the Board recommend that the final Citywide Skatepark Plan identify Genesee Park as a possible location for a skate facility no larger than a district facility, subject to neighborhood input as to size, location, and whether to build one at all. Commissioner Collins seconded.

The vote was taken and was unanimous in approval. Motion carried.

ISSUE #4 – GIVEN THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY, SHOULD PARKS EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS AND SIZES FOR A SKATE FACILITY AT MYRTLE RESERVOIR?

- Potential facilities on the reservoir site, the size, amenities and skill level, would be determined at a later date during the planning and design processes if the community so desired.

Commissioner Collins moved to adopt the staff recommendation to the Superintendent regarding Myrtle Reservoir, including that there be no more than one skate facility to be located at Myrtle Reservoir or High Point Playfield. Commissioner Ranade seconded.

The vote was taken with 5 votes in favor and one abstention (Commissioner Holme.) Motion carried.

ISSUE #5 –SHOULD PARKS CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE FOLLOWING NEAR-TERM FUTURE ACTIONS?

- Analysis and refinement of possible wading pools modifications
- Move forward with recommended priority projects, with refinement of planning level cost estimates for select project sites
 - **SKATEDOT POT**
 - **DAHL SKATESPOT**
 - **BRIGHTON PLAYFIELD SKATESPOT**
 - **JEFFERSON PARK DISTRICT FACILITY**

Commissioner Home moved for Parks to continue to explore the near-term future actions [listed above], with the bullet points and the staff recommendation. Commissioner Belbeck seconded.

The vote was taken and was unanimous in approval. Motion carried.

ISSUE #6 –SHOULD PARKS CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE FOLLOWING LONG-TERM FUTURE ACTIONS?

- Move forward with recommended priority projects, with refinement of planning level cost estimates for select project sites
 - **JUDKINS PARK/JUDGE CHARLES M. STOKES OVERLOOK SKATESPOT**
 - **ROXHILL PARK SKATESPOT**
 - **DELRIDGE PLAYFIELD SKATESPOT**

Commissioner Holme moved for Parks to continue to explore the following long-term future actions and bullet points. Commissioner Jackson seconded.

The vote was taken and was unanimous in approval. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact Susanne Friedman, Parks Project Planner, at: (206) 684-0902 or susanne.friedman@seattle.gov

Project information can be found at: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/Skatepark.htm>